

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/636,209

Examiner

Cynthia Britt

Applicant(s)

WU, DANIEL

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6-14-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Robert DeCady
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-16 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention pertains to a method and system for preventing overwrite errors in a buffer system. The claimed invention (claim 1 as an example of the broader claim) recites features such as "...performing a data write to a predefined memory segment; after said write, comparing a redundant portion at the end of said segment to an initial header portion of said segment; if said comparing indicates that said redundant portion and said initial portion are not the same, signaling an overwrite error."

The prior arts of record (Natrsevski et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,475,820 as an example of such prior arts) teach a system including a processing element that stores write management information identifying which sectors have been written and which sectors are available to be written. Whenever the drive receives a write command, it checks the write management directory to determine if the sector has already been written. If the directory indicates that the sector has already been written, the drive returns an error, otherwise, the drive writes the sector and updates the write management directory. If the sector address has been previously written, it returns an

Art Unit: 2133

overwrite error. The prior arts however, fail to teach "after said write, comparing a redundant portion at the end of said segment to an initial header portion of said segment; if said comparing indicates that said redundant portion and said initial portion are not the same, signaling an overwrite error".

As such, modification of the prior arts of record can only be motivated by hindsight reasoning, or by changing the intended use and function of the prior art themselves. It is therefore not clear that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have made the necessary modifications to the prior art of record to encompass the limitations set forth in the present application. Moreover, the prior arts of record, taken either alone or in combination, do not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed inventions. Hence, claims 1-16 are allowable over the prior arts of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia Britt whose telephone number is 703-308-2391. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on 703-305-9595. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CS-11
Cynthia Britt
Examiner
Art Unit 2133

Albert Decker
ALBERT DECKER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ELECTRONIC BUSINESS CENTER